



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

Raised Bill No. 7138

LCO No. 4271



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

***AN ACT CONCERNING LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT OF MAJOR
TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AND PLANNING.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2017*) (a) There is established a
2 Transportation Authority, which shall be part of the Executive
3 Department.
- 4 (b) The authority shall consist of the following members:
- 5 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 6 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- 7 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
8 Representatives;
- 9 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 10 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
11 Representatives;

12 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

13 (7) The Commissioner of Transportation;

14 (8) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development;

15 (9) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection;

16 (10) The Commissioner of Housing; and

17 (11) The Comptroller.

18 (c) Any member of the council appointed under subdivision (1), (2),
19 (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of
20 the General Assembly.

21 (d) All initial appointments to the authority shall be made not later
22 than August 1, 2017. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing
23 authority.

24 (e) The Commissioner of Transportation shall serve as the
25 chairperson of the authority. The chairperson shall schedule the first
26 meeting of the authority, which shall be held not later than October 1,
27 2017.

28 (f) The authority shall be within the Department of Transportation
29 for administrative purposes only.

30 (g) Appointed members of the authority shall serve for four-year
31 terms, except members first appointed shall have the following terms
32 which shall commence October 1, 2017: (1) Members appointed by the
33 majority leader of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of
34 the Senate and the minority leader of the House of Representatives
35 shall initially serve a term of two years, and (2) members appointed by
36 the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president pro tempore
37 of the Senate and the minority leader of the Senate shall initially serve
38 a term of four years. Members shall continue to serve until their

39 successors are appointed.

40 (h) Any vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be
41 filled for the balance of the unexpired term.

42 (i) A majority of the authority shall constitute a quorum for the
43 transaction of any business.

44 (j) The members of the authority shall serve without compensation,
45 but shall, within the limits of available funds, be reimbursed for
46 expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties.

47 (k) The authority shall have the following powers and duties: (1) To
48 approve, approve with modification or reject (A) projects included in
49 the state-wide transportation improvement program, (B) the long-
50 range master plan of transportation for the state developed by the
51 Commissioner of Transportation pursuant to section 13b-4 of the
52 general statutes, (C) plans regarding a restructured system of regional
53 transit districts within the state pursuant to said section, (D)
54 comprehensive long-range planning concerning the future
55 transportation needs of the state developed by the Department of
56 Transportation pursuant to section 13b-14 of the general statutes, and
57 (E) any other plans regarding the development, maintenance and
58 improvement of transportation in the state developed in accordance
59 with federal or state law; (2) to approve, approve with modification or
60 reject applications for federal funding of transportation projects before
61 such applications are submitted by the Department of Transportation
62 to the federal government; (3) to approve, approve with modification
63 or reject transportation projects proposed by the Department of
64 Transportation before funds are appropriated by the General
65 Assembly for such transportation projects and before bonds are
66 authorized by the State Bond Commission for such transportation
67 projects; (4) to obtain from any executive department, board,
68 commission or other agency of the state such assistance and data as
69 necessary and available to carry out the purposes of this section; (5) to

70 accept any gift, donation or bequest for the purpose of performing the
71 duties described in this section; and (6) to perform such other acts as
72 may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the duties described in
73 this section.

74 (l) The authority shall meet as deemed necessary by the chairperson
75 or a majority of the authority. Any appointed member who fails to
76 attend three consecutive meetings or who fails to attend fifty per cent
77 of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have
78 resigned from the authority.

79 (m) The authority shall hold not less than one public hearing when
80 reviewing a plan described in subdivision (1) of subsection (k) of this
81 section or a transportation project proposed by the Department of
82 Transportation.

83 (n) The authority may establish an advisory committee to advise the
84 authority in carrying out its duties. Such advisory committee shall be
85 composed of transportation professionals, advocates and other
86 interested stakeholders. The authority may request opinions from such
87 advisory committee regarding any plan described in subdivision (1) of
88 subsection (k) of this section and any transportation project proposed
89 by the Department of Transportation.

90 (o) The authority may enter into contractual agreements as may be
91 necessary for the discharge of its duties, within the limits of its
92 appropriated funds and in accordance with established procedures.

93 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 4-9a of the general statutes is
94 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
95 *1, 2017*):

96 (a) The Governor shall appoint the chairperson and executive
97 director, if any, of all boards and commissions within the Executive
98 Department, except the State Properties Review Board, the State
99 Elections Enforcement Commission, the Commission on Human

100 Rights and Opportunities, the Commission on Fire Prevention and
101 Control, [and] the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board and the
102 Transportation Authority.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	4-9a(a)

Statement of Purpose:

To establish the Transportation Authority to provide legislative oversight of transportation plans and projects.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]